

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2561

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION VIENNA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS USUN 4727

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, AFIN, ABUD, UN

SUBJECT: FIFTH COMMITTEE CONTINUES GENERAL DEBATE AND DISCUSSES
SECTION 13 (UNEP) OF PROGRAM BUDGET

REF: A) USUN 4697; B) DEPT A-6218

1. SUMMARY: AT 1705TH MEETING OF FIFTH COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 3, REPS OF NORWAY AND UK SPOKE IN GENERAL DEBATE. IN DISCUSSION OF SECTION 13 (UNEP), SEVERAL DELS CRITIZED ACABQ'S FAILURE TO RECOMMEND ANY CUTS. UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (STRONG) REESPONDED TO QUESTIONS. ON OCTOBER 6 COMMITTEE WILL RESUME GENERAL DEBATE FOLLOWED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF SECTIONS 13, 14, 19 AND 20. SPEAKER'S LIST FOR GENERAL BUDGET DEBATE WAS CLOSED TODAY, 36 SPEAKERS REMAINING. (US TO SPEAK ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8). END SUMMARY.

2. NORWAY (ALGARD) SAID UN BUDGET IS COMPARATIVELY MODEST AND CONTROLLED EXPANSION IS BOTH NATURAL AND DESIRABLE. HE APPEALED TO MEMBER STATES TO PAY THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS PROMPTLY. HIS DELEGATION WAS PREPARED TO STUDY AN INCREASE IN THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND, BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD SUCH AN INCREASE
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SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR THOSE NATIONS WHICH ARE PRIMARILY

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UN FINANCIAL CRISIS TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

3. UK DEL (STUART) AGREED WITH FRG THAT PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP ON BUDGET MACHINERY, BE IMPLEMENTED PROMPTLY. HE POINTED OUT ERROR IN SOV DEL STATEMENT (REF A) WHICH COMPARED REAL GROWTH OF NATIONAL GNP'S WITH NOMINAL GROWTH OF UN BUDGETS. HE SAID THAT REAL GROWTH OF GNP HAS TO BE COMPARED WITH SYG'S CALCULATION OF UN BUDGET REAL GROWTH OF 3-1/2 PERCENT OF ACABQ'S OF 5-6 PERCENT. IF SOV'S WANT UN BUDGET TO GROW AS FAST AS NATIONAL GNP, THAT WOULD JUSTIFY BIGGER BUDGET THAN SYG PROPOSAL.

4. ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE EXPLAINED THAT NO STAFF INCREASES WERE PROPOSED FOR UNEP REGULAR BUDGET, ALTHOUGH 39 POSITIONS REQUESTED UNDER UN ENVIRONMENT FUND. SWEDISH DEL SAID NUMBER OF UNEP POSTS WAS UNREALISTICALLY LOW. NETHERLANDS DEL EMPHASIZED COORDINATION FUNCTION OF ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY REGULAR BUDGET AND THE OPERATION FUNCTION OF ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS.

5. ALGERIAN DEL, SUPPORTED BY USSR, BELGIUM, IRAQ, KUWAIT AND VENEZUELA, EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS RE NUMBERS OF HIGH LEVEL UNEP OFFICIALS. HE ASKED WHY ACABQ, AFTER MAKING SEVERAL CRITICISMS OF UNEP MANAGEMENT, DID NOT RECOMMEND ANY SPECIFIC BUDGET CUTS. US DEL (BACHE) RAISED QUESTIONS PER REF B RE TOP HEAVY STAFF AND EXPENSIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

6. ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE SAID IF MOOD OF FIFTH COMMITTEE FAVORED BUDGET CUTS, ACABQ WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT BIENNIAL.

7. UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (STRONG) SAID HE TAKES ACABQ'S RECOMMENDATIONS SERIOUSLY. COMMUNICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO PERMIT CLOSE COORDINATION WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES LOCATED FAR FROM NAIROBI. HE SAID UNEP COULD NOT PERFORM ALL TASKS ASSIGNED TO IT WITH EXCESSIVELY SMALL SECRETARIAT.

8. NEAR END OF DEBATE, ALGERIAN DEL SAID IF ACABQ WILL NOT PROPOSE CUTS, THEN ALGERIA AND OTHER DELEGATIONS WILL.
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